IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 5, 39, and 72, as set forth below.

Claims 1-4 (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a router, the router coupled with a network, wherein all communications from clients on the network are received at the router;

a number of dispatchers coupled with the router, each of the dispatchers having a local dispatch table, wherein at least two of the dispatchers share a session entry identifying ~~a client~~ one of the clients and a selected server; and

a plurality of servers, each of the plurality of servers coupled with each of the number of dispatchers;

wherein the router directs each communication received from the network to one of the number of dispatchers, the one dispatcher to determine which of the plurality of servers is to receive the communication.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the number dispatchers and the plurality of servers are interconnected by a system area network.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6, the system area network exhibiting an InfiniBand® architecture.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the network comprises one or more networks selected from a group consisting of a Local Area Network, a Wide Area Network, a Metropolitan Area Network, and the Internet.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the number of dispatchers are coupled with a port of the router, the port of the router exhibiting port trunking.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the number of dispatchers have identical network addresses.

11. (Original) The system of claim 5, the plurality of servers comprising:
a first server group providing a first application; and
at least a second server group providing a second, different application.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, each of the first server group and the second server group comprising at least one server.

Claims 13-31 (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:
receiving a packet at one dispatcher of a plurality of dispatchers, the plurality of dispatchers coupled with a plurality of servers;
searching a local dispatch table of said one dispatcher;
transmitting the packet from said one dispatcher to a server of the plurality of servers if the local dispatch table identifies the server; and
transmitting the packet from said one dispatcher to a locking dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers if the local dispatch table includes a client lock, the client lock indicating that communications received from a client are to be transmitted to the locking dispatcher until a server is selected for the client.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the local dispatch table includes the client lock, the method further comprising:
selecting a server from the plurality of servers; and
transmitting the packet from the locking dispatcher to the selected server.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, further comprising broadcasting a dispatch table update from the locking dispatcher to all other dispatchers of the plurality of dispatchers, the dispatch table update identifying the selected server and indicating removal of the client lock.

35. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

receiving a first packet at one dispatcher of a plurality of dispatchers, the first packet including a connection request from a client;

creating a client lock on packets received from the client, the client lock indicating that packets received from the client are to be transmitted to said one dispatcher until a server is selected for the client; and

broadcasting a dispatch table update from said one dispatcher to all other dispatchers of the plurality of dispatchers, the dispatch table update indicating the client lock.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35, further comprising:

receiving at least a second packet at another dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers; and

transmitting the second packet from said another dispatcher to said one dispatcher.

37. (Original) The method of claim 36, further comprising:

selecting a server from a plurality of servers coupled with the plurality of dispatchers; and

transmitting the first packet and the second packet to the selected server.

38. (Original) The method of claim 37, further comprising broadcasting another dispatch table update from said one dispatcher to said all other dispatchers, said another dispatch table update identifying the selected server and indicating removal of the client lock.

39. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

establishing communication between a network and a router, wherein all communications from clients on the network are received at the router;

receiving a packet at a router, the router coupled with a plurality of dispatchers, the packet including a connection request from ~~a client~~ one of the clients;

transmitting the packet from the router to a first dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers;

selecting a server from a plurality of servers coupled with the plurality of dispatchers;

placing a session entry in a local dispatch table of the first dispatcher, the session entry identifying the client and the selected server;

broadcasting a dispatch table update from the first dispatcher to all other dispatchers of the plurality of dispatchers, the dispatch table update identifying the client and the selected server;

transmitting the packet to the selected server;

receiving a second packet at the router from the client; and

transmitting the second packet from the router to a second dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers, the second dispatcher to search a local dispatch table of the second dispatcher to identify the selected server and transmit the second packet to the selected server.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising:
selecting a communication link from a plurality of communication links, each of the plurality of communication links coupling one of the plurality of dispatchers with a port of the router; and
transmitting the packet over the selected communication link to the first dispatcher.

41. (Original) The method of claim 40, further comprising randomly selecting the communication link from the plurality of communication links.

42. (Original) The method of claim 39, further comprising:
determining a load on each of the plurality of servers; and
selecting the server at least partially in response to the load on said each server.

43. (Original) The method of claim 39, further comprising:
identifying an application associated with the packet; and
selecting the server at least partially in response to the identified application.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the first dispatcher and the second dispatcher comprise the same dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers.

45. (Original) The method of claim 39, further comprising replacing in the packet a network address associated with each of the plurality of dispatchers with a network address of the selected server.

Claims 46-64 (Canceled)

65. (Previously Presented) A article of manufacture comprising:
a machine accessible medium, the machine accessible medium providing instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to
receive a packet at one dispatcher of a plurality of dispatchers, the plurality of dispatchers coupled with a plurality of servers;
search a local dispatch table of said one dispatcher;
transmit the packet from said one dispatcher to a server of the plurality of servers if the local dispatch table identifies the server; and
transmit the packet from said one dispatcher to a locking dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers if the local dispatch table includes a client lock, the client lock indicating that communications received from a client are to be transmitted to the locking dispatcher until a server is selected for the client.

66. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 65, the local dispatch table including the client lock, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

select a server from the plurality of servers; and

transmit the packet from the locking dispatcher to the selected server.

67. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 66, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to broadcast a dispatch table update from the locking dispatcher to all other dispatchers of the plurality of dispatchers, the dispatch table update identifying the selected server and indicating removal of the client lock.

68. (Previously Presented) A article of manufacture comprising:
a machine accessible medium, the machine accessible medium providing instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to
receive a first packet at one dispatcher of a plurality of dispatchers, the first packet including a connection request from a client;
create a client lock on packets received from the client, the client lock indicating that packets received from the client are to be transmitted to said one dispatcher until a server is selected for the client; and
broadcast a dispatch table update from said one dispatcher to all other dispatchers of the plurality of dispatchers, the dispatch table update indicating the client lock.

69. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 68, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine:
receive at least a second packet at another dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers; and
transmit the second packet from said another dispatcher to said one dispatcher.

70. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 69, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

select a server from a plurality of servers coupled with the plurality of dispatchers; and transmit the first packet and the second packet to the selected server.

71. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 70, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to broadcast another dispatch table update from said one dispatcher to said all other dispatchers, said another dispatch table update identifying the selected server and indicating removal of the client lock.

72. (Currently Amended) A article of manufacture comprising:

a machine accessible medium, the machine accessible medium providing instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to

establish communication between a network and a router, wherein all communications from clients on the network are received at the router;

receive a packet at a router, the router coupled with a plurality of dispatchers, the packet including a connection request from ~~a client~~ one of the clients;

transmit the packet from the router to a first dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers;

select a server from a plurality of servers coupled with the plurality of dispatchers;

place a session entry in a local dispatch table of the first dispatcher, the session entry identifying the client and the selected server;

broadcast a dispatch table update from the first dispatcher to all other dispatchers of the plurality of dispatchers, the dispatch table update identifying the client and the selected server;

transmit the packet to the selected server;

receive a second packet at the router from the client; and

transmit the second packet from the router to a second dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers, the second dispatcher to search a local dispatch table of the second dispatcher to identify the selected server and transmit the second packet to the selected server.

73. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 72, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

select a communication link from a plurality of communication links, each of the plurality of communication links coupling one of the plurality of dispatchers with a port of the router; and

transmit the packet over the selected communication link to the first dispatcher.

74. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 73, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to randomly select the communication link from the plurality of communication links.

75. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 72, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

determine a load on each of the plurality of servers; and

select the server at least partially in response to the load on said each server.

76. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 72, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

identify an application associated with the packet; and

select the server at least partially in response to the identified application.

77. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 72, wherein the first dispatcher and the second dispatcher comprise the same dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers.

78. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 72, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to replace in the packet a network address associated with each of the plurality of dispatchers with a network address of the selected server.